

a darling sin and it seems more powerful than ever, "Fear not, only believe."

Have you prayed for some one to return from backsliding, or to come to God from sin, and he only seems worse, "Fear not, only believe."

#### The Inner Circle

On Christ went. It made no difference to him if the girl was dead. He could raise a dead person to life as easily as to heal a sick one. He can raise one to life who is "dead in trespasses and in sins" as easily as he can heal the moral sinner. He took with him of his disciples only three, Peter, James and John, who on two more occasions were singled out to be with him alone. This was the inner circle of his disciples who were specially faithful and trusted. Are you one of Christ's inner circle, or one who goes with him when everybody else goes? There are both today. You can be either.

Those of the inner circle alone stand by him when he raises the dead; only they behold the glory of the Mount of Transfiguration; only they are privileged to be with him in Gethsemane.

#### Funeral Customs

As Jesus and the three disciples and Jairus came near the latter's home they heard the tumult of those who for hire wept and wailed, as was the custom in that day. Some funeral customs of today are almost as foolish as those of that day. Then they hired people to lament for them, so as to be within the bounds of propriety. Now, men must lament and howl over dead relatives so people will think they care something for the dead.

#### Jesus and Death

Jesus went into this home of death and rebuked the wailers. And, how pertinent would be his rebuke to some lamenting today! "The child is not dead, but sleepeth." How strange that we fail to realize that death to the Christian is but an incident. The eternal life begins here, death interrupts it for a moment and it continues on forever.

The people laughed Jesus to scorn. Blind unbelief always does so. Ha! had they not seen Death often? And were here not the unmistakable signs of his presence? But to Jesus death was not what it was to those of unbelief. It was as sleep to him in comparison with what they conceived it to be.

#### Unbelief Banished

Then, putting them all forth,—all those disciples of Unbelief and Respectability so-called,—the Lord of Life, the Conqueror of Death taking the parents of the dead and the three faithful disciples, went into the presence of the last enemy, Death. In the calm majesty of perfect faith and love, he took the maid by the hand and with a word, not in any foreign language, but the language of his babyhood and sincerest manhood, he said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise."

#### The Resurrection

At once, the dead form quivered with life; the cheeks flushed with the pulsing blood;

the limbs warmed with life and moved; she stood upon her feet. No sign of death upon her, neither of recent sickness. In perfect health she stood before them back from the realm of Death.

Amazement of course was the first feeling of those who saw it. But Jesus simply commanded them strictly that no man should know it; and that they should do their part in giving her something to eat.

This blessed event which brought joy to this bereft household is a perfect type of the Resurrection. Jesus shall raise our vile bodies and fashion them like unto his glorious body. Let us live for that first Resurrection. "Blessed and holy are they that have part in the first resurrection."

#### Lesson Applied

1. Jesus never turns a deaf ear to prayer, but babblings,—!!
2. It takes strength to help others. Expect to spend your strength if you wish to help.
3. If you trust Christ, he will allow nothing to overcome your faith or balk your prayer.
4. Are you a member of the Inner Circle?
5. Jesus restores the dead to life, but we must feed them.

J. L. GILLIN

## Church News

#### Berlin, Pa.

EVANGELIST No. 13, reached me a few minutes ago. I immediately glanced over Brother Cassel's report and felt like shouting when I read, "the victory's won." I never doubted the Washington church's success. No one does that pays and prays. At this juncture I stood the tailor off and did what I could. I see our three churches are not yet reported. While we might have done better, it must be remembered we struggled pretty hard here in the last year to pay off a debt on a new house in this charge. Yet we were not idle in reminding the brethren of their duty. I can faintly hear Chicago and Dayton "speak out in school," and ask for new houses. So we will begin to lay up for them. Can we not give each of them a house in the year 1900? The Methodists build on an average a church each day in the year. Can we not build three? These would be undoubtedly the more costly owing to their location in large cities. Why, we have given only about one-fourth of one per cent. to the Washington church, of all our assessable property, if the fund was evenly drawn. I venture the assertion that the price of tobacco paid in one year, by the brethren would purchase the Washington house. Well, we always did pay more for luxuries than for sinners. Some that pay the least generally are the fellows that blow their bugles the loudest about their particular faith. They believe that it's more blessed to give than to receive, but when it comes to practicability they are willing to console themselves by saying, "you give and I'll receive."

Why, brethren, we haven't tried our strength. Now while we do not yet support one foreign missionary, let us not show ourselves "strapped" in our home missions and church extension. Well, we are moving slowly all along the line here. While we can not report any marked progress, yet we have a number of standing applicants for baptism, which we expect to report later. We have some bold opposition here. But we gave them a series of sermons, such as some did not like to hear. One lady called us a fool for preaching so against sin. Of course she was never to hear me preach. Did you ever hear of the like before? We have very good attendance in our points. Our prayer meeting in town is growing exceedingly interesting, with an average attendance of thirty and sometimes more. The Methodists are observing a week of prayer in order to repair the decline of membership. I'm of the opinion if prayer repairs it prevents also. We therefore know our duties. Then let's go at it. It proves without a doubt.

P. M. SWINEHART.

#### Gas Belt Items

With faces Christward and with hearts of praise the brethren of the Gas Belt continue the work of the Master.

Oakville.—At this place the several departments of the church are active and all services are well attended. The Sunday school under the management of Anson Preddy is in a flourishing condition. The school is one of five banner schools in the county. Brother Preddy, tho a member of the G. B. brethren is a zealous worker for Christ in the Brethren Sunday school. May his kind be increased. The Sunday school here has after much persuasion decided to try the *Brethren Quarterly* the coming quarter. My hopes are that they have come to stay. On March 24 we baptized those who confessed Christ during the revival meeting but were for various causes hindered from being baptized at that time. This congregation has made a special object of mission work the past year and the fruit of such work is being manifested in a deepening of the spiritual life and power of the church. The C. E. is still adding an occasional member to its list. The society is having some very spiritual and uplifting meetings.

Maple Grove.—At our last appointment here we had the pleasure of adding by baptism a young lady to the church. May she by the grace of God prove a help both to the church and the Young People's Society. How blest to follow the footsteps of Jesus in youth.

For various reasons we have discontinued the work at this place but we shall ever remember with grateful heart with what loyalty and faithfulness a large number of the members stood by us in the trying and arduous duties of a pastor in a congregation having factions. May the Lord reward them as only he can.

#### THE EVANGELISTIC WORK

By reason of illness in the family we have